



A D D R E S S

O F T H E

STUDENTS OF MEDICINE,

T O T H E

Right Hon. the LORD PROVOST, MAGISTRATES,
and TOWN-COUNCIL of the City of EDINBURGH.

M. DCC. LXVI.



A D R S

STODOLSKY

TO THE

THE BOARD OF THE CITY OF BIRMINGHAM

MEMORANDUM

RE: THE PROPOSED

T O T H E

Right Hon. The LORD PROVOST,
MAGISTRATES, and TOWN-COUNCIL
of EDINBURGH. *

THE following address is presented with the sole view of promoting the good of the University and City of Edinburgh. When such is its intention, there is no occasion to solicit, from the guardians of the welfare of both, a candid consideration of its contents, nor to intreat, that, what is meant only to declare the *sentiments* and *wishes* of those who are more immediately interested in your determination of the point to be considered, should not be construed into a vain and ill-judged attempt to infringe any of your undoubted rights.

We who make this application are Students of Medicine in your University.—By the death of the late Dr. WHYT, we have been deprived of a truly learned and justly celebrated Preceptor.—By the resignation of Dr. RUTHERFOORD, we can no longer enjoy the instructions of a man, whose years and long services have justly intitled him to retire, with honour, from the burden of Academical duties.—We are sensible, that, from the manner in which their seats are supplied, the reputation of the University and Magistrates, and our hopes of farther improvement here, must entirely depend.

We are humbly of opinion, that the reputation of the University and Magistrates, the good of the City, and our improvement, will all, in an eminent manner, be consulted, by engaging Dr. GREGORY to relinquish the Professorship of the Practice for that of the Theory of Medicine, by appointing

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Dr.

* The signed original of this address was, on Monday April 28th, 1766, presented in the most respectful manner to the Right Honourable the Lord Provost, by a committee unanimously appointed by the Students of Medicine, with full powers for that purpose.

Dr. CULLEN, present Professor of Chemistry, to the Practical chair, and by electing Dr. BLACK Professor of Chemistry.

As Students of Medicine we are led to adopt those sentiments from the following considerations.

The first is, the merits and abilities of Dr. CULLEN.—How much that Gentleman has contributed to the advancement of almost every branch of Medical Science, whoever is, in the least, acquainted with the Medical Annals of your University, abundantly knows.—To pretend to enumerate in detail how much we owe to him, how far he has contributed to diffuse an ardour for improvement and spirit of liberal enquiry in Medicine, were to waste your time and our own. We cannot, however, forbear to mention, that Chemistry, formerly little studied here, has been by him new-modelled, and raised to the highest reputation; so that his plan has been successfully followed in different parts of the British dominions, and that here there are now more Students engaged annually in the pursuit of this collateral branch of Physick, than in any other part of it, except Anatomy.—More particularly, it tends to our present purpose to observe, that all, who have attended the Clinical Lectures in the Royal Infirmary, have, in them, heard him give proofs of his profound knowledge in the Practice of Physick, and candidly deliver the result of an experience of more than thirty years. There, from the justness and importance of his observations, from the accuracy and chastity of his reasoning, from his extensive knowledge of the practice of other countries, from the wideness of his views, from the perspicuity of his method, from the ease and elegance of his delivery, every hearer has obtained the most thorough conviction of his abilities as a Practical Professor, and conceived the most ardent desire of hearing his instructions from that Chair.

Nor is this our opinion of Dr. CULLEN meant, in the least, to detract from the merits of Dr. GREGORY. On the contrary, a principal motive to our expressing the sentiments we do, on this

this occasion, is the high opinion we entertain of that Gentleman's capacity. By a late very elegant and ingenious performance, by every body attributed to him, we imagine it is evident what advantages the University must reap from Lectures on the Theory of Medicine, delivered by a thinker so just and original, and so universally acquainted with human nature. With pleasure too we reflect, that his character is not less respectable as a man, than as a philosopher ; we therefore cannot suppose, that, were the publick emolument to be obtained, even at the expense of his private interest, he would not rejoice to make the honourable sacrifice, far less, that he would, in the least, hesitate to favour a scheme for promoting the publick utility, when his private advantage is consistent with it.

That the publick utility *will* highly be promoted, by agreeing to an exchange, which leaves room for Dr. BLACK's being elected Professor of Chemistry, will hardly be denied. Dr. CULLEN in his lectures on Chemistry, will always be heard with attention and applause. Those numerous experiments, however, which he is almost daily pointing out to us, as necessary to be made, for attaining farther excellence in that science, require, for their performance, such a long and unwearied attention, as is perhaps only consistent with an almost total abstraction from other avocations. How much Dr. CULLEN does in this way, even amidst the constant distractions of other business, is not easy to say. But the prosecution of the science still more amply upon that plan, may, with confidence, be expected from Dr. BLACK, a man, whose name as a Chemist, is justly celebrated throughout all Europe, and whose reputation, at present, supports the fame of an inferior, but rival University. In him, the vigour and enterprize of youth, is conjoined to a well known and peculiarly preferable attachment to Chemistry. He, we apprehend, is the only person, who, in the Chemical chair can acquit himself with the same applause, that the present Professor has done for a number of years.

Such

Such are the considerations, that, as *Students of Medicine*, engage us to entertain these sentiments, with regard to the disposal of the Professors seats: But, were we for a moment to consider ourselves as *Citizens* of Edinburgh, additional motives would croud upon us: the honour of the University; the honour of the City, intimately connected with it; the great advantages arising from the confluence of Students; the certain diminution of that confluence upon decay of the University's reputation; the necessity of raising that reputation to the highest pitch, in order to attain pre-eminence over rivals in other Universities; the fame of having contributed to that additional reputation; the disagreeable reflexion of having lessened it, would then be a few of the many arguments, on which we would enlarge to our Representatives and Governors, as incitements to their adopting the scheme we propose.

But, without considering ourselves in that, to us, imaginary relation, we presume to hope we have suggested arguments, which will induce the Council to do every thing in their power to bring our proposal to execution.

We end, by again assuring the Right Honourable Lord Provost, Magistrates and Town-council, that our intention here is only to inform them of the *sentiments* and *wishes* of the Students; that we are entirely sensible that our opinion, unless from its tendency to publick benefit, should have no influence on the unquestioned independency of the Council's conduct; and that it is alone from the conviction of such being its tendency, that we have been prompted to make this address. What other motives *could* prompt us? We have no private enmity to gratify, nor successful rival to oppose. Though we should profess to have been guided only by private interest, our private interest, in this affair, is intimately and inseparably connected with the publick good.

Finally, whatever be the success of our endeavours, we are happy in having this opportunity of publicly expressing our gratitude to our Professors, and regard for the City.

We,

We, therefore, whose names are hereto subjoined, unanimously concur in declaring to the Right Honourable Lord Provost, Magistrates and Town-council of Edinburgh, that we are thoroughly convinced, that Dr. GREGORY's relinquishing the professorship of the Practice for that of the Theory of Medicine, that the appointment of Dr. CULLEN to the practical chair, and the election of Dr. BLACK as Professor of Chemistry, will add to the reputation of the University and Magistrates, and contribute highly to the good of the city and of the Students of Medicine.

Possessed of this conviction, we therefore also unanimously concur in intreating the Right Honourable Lord Provost, Magistrates and Town-council of Edinburgh, in the most humble and earnest manner, to do every thing in their power to put in execution the scheme above proposed.

The above was signed by one hundred and sixty Students.

Since the above address was approved and signed, a plan of arranging the Professorships has been communicated to us, of which, thus late, it is still thought necessary to make mention. —By this plan it is proposed, that Dr. CULLEN and Dr. GREGORY should be appointed conjunctly and severally Professors both of the Theory and Practice of Medicine, and Dr. BLACK, be elected to the chair of Chemistry.

Guided only by the faint light of our own prudence in our ardour for the publick cause, proceeding with the most reverential deference for established forms, intending to propose no change but what might be effected by the compliance of one man, and which our exalted opinion of his character gave us the most just grounds to expect; there is no wonder that we should not have ventured to suggest an *alteration* in teaching the Theory and Practice of Physick, which, however expedient, has hitherto been unexperienced in this University.

But

But when we consider the conformity of that plan with our own, in so far as producing an arrangement, by which Chemistry, Theory and Practice, are taught by Dr. BLACK, Dr. GREGORY, and Dr. CULLEN; when we reflect, while choice is still left to the Student, of prosecuting Physick in the manner in which it was formerly taught, that, at the same time, peculiar advantages arise from its being in his power to learn Theory and Practice from the same person; when we foresee the immense and rapid progress to be expected in sciences thus taught by two men of genius, contesting with noble emulation the prize of fame; finally, when we consider the sanction this proposal has received, by taking its rise among the Professors of Medicine themselves, we cannot but most heartily approve and sincerely admire it.

Without therefore enlarging on a scheme, the propriety of which will doubtless be urged to you by a weight of argument worthy of that illustrious body where it took its rise, we whose names are subscribed, with the most perfect unanimity, declare our concurrence with it, and that the execution of it will be to us equally agreeable and advantageous as of that which we have before suggested.

The above was signed by one hundred and fifty-one Students.

A report having been malignantly propagated, that the framing and presentation of this address were suggested and conducted, not by the Students of Medicine themselves, but by one of the Professors of Medicine; we, the committee appointed for presenting it, who have had access to be acquainted with the particulars relative to these matters, hereby declare, in the most solemn manner, that such report is entirely without foundation.

JAMES MADDOCKS, M. D.
THOMAS SMITH.

ALEXANDER MONRO DRUMMOND.
JAMES BLAIR.